

## GLOSSARY

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**Acre-foot:** The volume of water required to cover one acre of land (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot; equivalent to 325,850 gallons.

**Adjudicated water right:** A water right for which the defining parameters required by law have been determined and decreed by a court of law.

**Alluvium:** Soil material, such as sand, silt, or clay that has been deposited on land surface by water.

**Alteration:** A term usually used in reference to Idaho Code Title 42, Chapter 38, the Stream Protection Act. An alteration is any activity that obstructs, diminishes, destroys, alters, modifies, relocates, or changes the natural existing shape of the stream channel within or below the mean high water mark. It includes removal of material from the stream channel and emplacement of material or structures in or across the stream channel where the material or structure has the potential to affect flow in the channel as determined by the director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

**Anadromous:** Fish species, such as salmon, that are born in fresh water, spend most of their adult life in the ocean, and return to fresh water to reproduce.

**Appropriate or appropriation:** To obtain the right to divert and use the public waters of the state of Idaho.

**Beneficial use:** The uses of water that can legally be protected by water rights.

**Best management practices:** State-of-the-art land and water use practices that are efficient, effective, practical, economical, and environmentally sound. The goal of best management practices is to minimize soil erosion.

**IWRB:** Idaho Water Resource IWRB.

**Bull trout:** The common name for *Salvelinus confluentus*, a char native to the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

**Clearwater Focus Watershed Project:** The purpose of the Clearwater Focus Program is to coordinate projects to enhance and restore fish and wildlife habitats in the Clearwater River subbasin to meet the goals of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's program. Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) and the Nez Perce Tribal Watershed Division (one of 6 divisions within the NPT Fisheries Department) co-coordinate the Focus Program on behalf of Idaho State and the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT).

**Colluvium:** Soil material, rock fragments, or both, moved by creep, slide, or local wash and deposited the base of steep slopes.

**Commercial Business:** Non-manufacturing business.

**Comprehensive State Water Plan:** A plan adopted by the Idaho Water Resource IWRB and

approved by the legislature pursuant to Section 42-1734A of the Idaho Code.

**Confluence:** The point at which one or more bodies of water flows into another.

**Conservation:** Actions taken to increase the efficiency of energy or water use, production, or distribution.

**Consumptive use:** The portion of the volume of water diverted under a water right that is transpired by vegetation, evaporated from soils, converted to non-recoverable water vapor, incorporated into products, or otherwise does not return to the waters of the state. Consumptive use does not include any water that falls as precipitation directly on the place of use unless it is captured, controlled, and used under an appurtenant water right [Idaho Code 42-202B(1)].

**Cubic feet per second (cfs):** A unit of measure for the rate of discharge of water. One cubic foot per second is the rate of flow of one square foot of water that is flowing at mean velocity of one foot per second. It is equal to 448.8 gallons per minute, or 1.98 acre-foot per day.

**Decree:** A written decision by a court of law. Water right disputes are sometimes taken to court for resolution – the resultant description of the water rights in question are known as “decreed” water rights.

**Domestic water use:** The use of water as described in Idaho Code 42-111. Domestic use can be for home, livestock, and for any other purposes in connection with a home, including irrigation of up to one-half acre of land. The total use cannot exceed 13,000 gallons per day. Domestic use can also be for other small uses such as commercial or business establishments, if the total diversion rate does not exceed 0.04 cubic feet per second and a diversion volume of 2,500 gallons per day.

**Ecosystem:** A complex system composed of a community of flora and fauna, taking into account the chemical and physical environment with which the system is interrelated.

**Endangered species:** Any species or subspecies that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The term is usually used in relation to the Endangered Species Act (see below).

**Endangered Species Act:** A federal statute that invokes protection for the species listed under the law (16 U.S.C. §1536). Animals and plants are designated as “endangered” or “threatened” by either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service. There are other designations for “experimental populations.” Listed populations receive the highest protection possible, with penalties for taking, harming, or injuring an individual or its environment. Special procedures apply to government projects in areas where listed species may be present.

**Evapotranspiration:** The loss of moisture by evaporation from land and water surfaces and transpiration from plants.

**Fishery enhancement structure:** A structure deliberately placed within the waterway to improve fish habitat.

**Floodplain:** Land that may be submerged by floodwaters. The floodplain built up by stream deposition. The 100-year floodplain identifies the land in the floodplain subject to a 1% or greater

chance of flooding in any given year.

**Friable:** Easily crumbled or pulverized.

**Geothermal:** The natural heat energy of the earth. In this plan, the term refers to water that is heated underground, and retains at least some of that heat at land surface or at the bottom of a well.

**Ground water:** All water under the surface of the ground whatever may be the geological structure in which it is standing or moving (Idaho Code 42-230).

**Habitat:** The place or type of natural site where a plant or animal normally lives and grows.

**Head:** The elevation difference between surfaces of water.

**High water mark:** The line that separates aquatic vegetation from terrestrial vegetation. The line which the water impresses on the soil by covering it for sufficient periods of time to deprive the soil of its terrestrial vegetation and destroy its value for commonly accepted agricultural purposes (Idaho Code 42-3802).

**Hydropower project:** Any development which uses a flow of water as a source of electrical or mechanical power, or which regulates the flow of water for the purpose of generating electrical or mechanical power. A hydropower project development includes all powerhouses, dams, water conduits, transmission lines, water impoundments, roads, and other appurtenant works and structures [Idaho Code 42-1731(5)].

**Idaho Batholith:** The body of intrusive igneous (volcanic) rock in central Idaho about 250 miles long and a maximum of 100 miles wide. It is approximately 100 million years old.

**Idaho Code:** Idaho laws, as written by the state legislature and approved by the governor.

**Idaho Water Resource IWRB:** A constitutional water agency within the Idaho Department of Water Resources consisting of eight appointed members pursuant to the provisions of Article 15, Section 7 of the Idaho Constitution (Idaho Code 42-1732).

**Industrial business:** A business that manufactures products.

**Irrigation:** The watering of cropland. Residential lawn and garden uses are not considered “irrigation” in the context of water rights issued by the state of Idaho.

**Kilowatt:** A unit of electric power equal to 1,000 watts, or about 0.746 horsepower.

**Listed Species:** Used in reference to animals and plants listed under the Endangered Species Act.

**Mean high water mark:** A water level corresponding to the natural or ordinary high water mark. The line which the water impresses on the soil by covering it for sufficient periods of time to deprive the soil of its terrestrial vegetation and destroy its value for commonly accepted agricultural purposes [Idaho Code 42-3802(h)].

**Megawatt:** A unit of electrical power equal to 1,000,000 watts, or about 746 horsepower.

**Minimum stream flow:** A water right that retains water in the stream or river for wildlife habitat, recreation, navigation, and aesthetic beauty. Idaho Code defines this term as the minimum flow of water in cubic feet per second of time, or minimum lake level in feet above mean sea level, required to protect fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic life, recreation, scenic beauty, navigation, transportation, or water quality of a waterway in the public interest [Idaho Code 42-1502(f)].

**Municipal water use:** Water for residential, commercial, or industrial use; for irrigation of parks and open spaces; or for related purposes. Municipal water use does not include use of water from geothermal sources for heating, which a municipal provider is entitled or obliged to supply to all those users within a service area, including those located outside the boundaries of a municipality served by a municipal provider [Idaho Code 42-202B(3)].

**Natural River:** A designation made by the Idaho Water Resource IWRB. It defines a waterway which possesses outstanding fish and wildlife, recreation, geologic, or aesthetic values; which is free of substantial existing human-made impoundments, dams, or other structures; and of which the riparian areas are largely undeveloped although accessible in places by trails and roads [Idaho Code 42-1731(7)].

**Public interest (local):** In regards to water appropriations, this encompasses the affairs of the people of the area directly affected by the proposed use [Idaho Code 42-203A(5)].

**Recreational dredge mining:** Operation of vacuum or suction dredges and power sluice equipment in which the nozzle is 5 inches or less, and the equipment rated at 15 horsepower or less, and capable of moving 2 cubic yards per hour or less.

**Recreational River:** A designation made by the Idaho Water Resource IWRB. It defines a waterway which possesses outstanding fish and wildlife, recreation, geologic or aesthetic values, and which might include some human-made development within the waterway or within the riparian area of the waterway [Idaho Code 42-1731(9)].

**Rental pool:** A market for exchange of stored water operated by a local committee. The committee is appointed by the Idaho Water Resource Board.

**Riparian area:** The area associated with aquatic (stream, river, or lake) habitats. The term is defined in Idaho Code for purposes associated with the Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Idaho Water Resource Board, as the area within one hundred (100) feet of the mean high water mark of a water way [Idaho Code 42-1731(10)].

**River basin:** The total drainage or catchment area of a stream (i.e., the watershed).

**River corridor:** The area of varying width along both sides of a river or stream.

**River reach:** A continuous section of a river from one point to another; a stretch of the river.

**Scrub vegetation:** Vegetation dominated by shrubs, typically found at elevations below montane (mountain) vegetation.

**State agency:** Any IWRB, commission, department, or executive agency of the state of Idaho.

**Streambed:** A natural water course of perceptible extent with a definite bed and banks, which confines and conducts the water of a waterway that lies below and between the ordinary high water marks on either side of that waterway [Idaho Code 42-1731(12)].

**Threatened species:** A species of plant or animal that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** The sum of all pollutants in a waterway. Pollutant levels established through TMDL standards must be at or below the level that the water body can assimilate without violating the state's water quality standards.

**Unappropriated water:** Water that is not subject to diversion and use under existing water rights [Idaho Code 42-1502(g)].

**Water right:** The legal right, however acquired, to the use of water for beneficial purposes [Idaho Code 42-230(e)].

**Water right application:** An application filed by any person, association, or corporation with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, intending to acquire the right to the beneficial use of the waters of any natural streams, springs, or seepage waters, lakes, or ground water, or other public waters of the state of Idaho [Idaho Code 42-202].

**Waterway:** A river, stream, creek, lake, or spring, or a portion thereof.

**Water table:** The highest part of the soil or underlying rock material that is wholly saturated with water. On some places an upper, or perched, water table may be separated from a lower one by a dry zone.

**Wetlands:** Transitional lands between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water.

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **South Fork Clearwater River Watershed Advisory Group**

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